

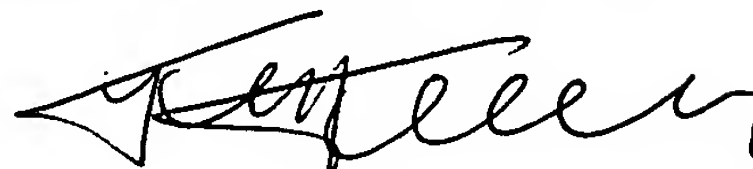
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of allowable claim 6 (also including the subject matter of claim 3 wherein claim 6 depends). Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend on claim 1 and are believed to be allowable therewith.

Applicants have advised their agent that the following references were cited in the corresponding Japanese patent application on December 14, 2004: JP 61-174185 (copy enclosed with English translation of claim 1), JP 10-106674 and JP 11-297415 (copies enclosed with English-language abstracts). None of these references suggests a metal lock plate and a ground-connection, or that the cover and the cover locking mechanism are made of metal. Accordingly, amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes of this prior art.

No issue remaining at bar, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-11 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Form 1449 and references listed thereon

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 5, 2005.



Maria Guastella

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